

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-06 L-03 PRS-01 COA-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CG-00 EB-11

COME-00 DODE-00 IO-14 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DRC-01 /107 W

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O R 122203Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0281

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1625

FROM ASST SECY KUBISCH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EFIS, PBOR, M, EC

SUBJ: LOS AND FISHING TALKS: INTERVIEW WITH ACTING FONMIN

1. SUMMARY: DURING CONVERSATION MARCH 11 WITH ACTING FONMIN RODRIGO VALDEZ, I REVIEWED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY GOE TO ENGAGE IN BILATERAL INDUSTRY-TO-INDUSTRY TALKS TO SEEK PRACTICAL INTERIM SOLUTION TO FISHERIES DISPUTE, SUGGESTED DEFINITE DATE OF APRIL 1 BE SET FOR BEGINNING OF TALKS AND SHOWED HIM DRAFT JOINT PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING SAME. VALDEZ SEEMED VERY RECEPTIVE TO ENTIRE PRESENTATION AND INDICATED PERSONAL APPROVAL OF PRESS RELEASE, THOUGH HE WOULD HAVE TO CLEAR WITH FONMIN AND OTHER GOE AGENCIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCOMPANIED BY AMB BREWSTER, I MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER RODRIGO VALDEZ AFTERNOON OF MARCH 11. AFTER INFORMING HIM OF LETTER I WOULD BE DELIVERING FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ AND IMPORTANCE WHICH THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY ATTACHES TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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ECUADOR, I REVIEWED QUEVEDO-SCHLAUDEMANN TALKS, OUR READI-

NESS TO SELL CERTAIN AIRCRAFT DESIRED BY GOE, AND INTENTION TO CONDUCT DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFENSE MINISTRY RE MILITARY PURCHASES AND TRAINING.

3. I THEN PASSED TO FISHERIES PROBLEM, NOTING DIFFERING LOS POSITIONS WHICH HAVE GIVEN RISE TO IT. OBSERVED THAT ELEMENTS OF POSSIBLE COMPROMISE EXISTED; OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER COASTAL STATE ECONOMIC PREFERENCE BEYOND 12 MILES; APPARENT ECUADOREAN READINESS TO ACKNOWLEDGE TRADITIONAL FREEDOMS OF PASSAGE AND OVERFLIGHT BEYOND 12 MILES. I ALSO EXPRESSED OUR HOPE GOE WOULD SUPPORT US INTERNATIONAL-STRAITS POSITION AT LOS CONFERENCE.

4. HOWEVER, THERE REMAINED IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF REMOVING FISHERIES PROBLEM AS IRRITANT IN OUR RELATIONS. I NOTED OUR GRATIFICATION THERE HAVE BEEN NO SEIZURES FOR OVER A YEAR. NEVERTHELESS, PROBLEM CONTINUED AS THREAT TO OUR RELATIONS AND WE FELT IT URGENT FOR US AND ECUADOR TO SEEK PRACTICAL NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. FORTUNATELY, NEW FISHING LAW PROVIDES BASIS FOR ASSOCIATION BETWEEN FOREIGN-FLAG VESSELS AND ECUADOREAN FISHING COMPANIES. USG IS VERY INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THESE POSSIBILITIES AND WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT TALKS, AGREED TO BY PRES RODRIGUEZ ON JANUARY 29, BEGIN IN QUITO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE ASSUME THESE WOULD BE ON INDUSTRY-TO-INDUSTRY BASIS WITH GOE AND USG OBSERVERS. SUCCESSFUL PRACTICAL SOLUTION COULD THUS BE WORKED OUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO RESPECTIVE LOS POSITIONS.

5. I INFORMED VALDEZ WE HAD ALREADY FORMED TENTATIVE US INDUSTRY DELEGATION, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TALKS COULD BEGIN APRIL 1, AND PASSED HIM COPY OF DRAFT JOINT PRESS RELEASE PREPARED BY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCING OPENING OF TALKS ON THAO BWNB.#

MALLHNE VALDEZ WAS QUITE RECEPTIVE AND AFFIRMATIVE DURING ENTIRE PRESENTATION, INDICATING PARTICULAR AGREEMENT DURING RUNDOWN OF POSSIBLE LOS COMPROMISE AND EARLY START OF FISHING TALKS. HE SAID SPECIFICALLY GOE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH FREE PASSAGE AND OVERFLIGHT BEYOND 12 MILES. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH DRAFT PRESS RELEASE, BUT THAT

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HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH HIS MINISTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT. THUS APPEARS LIKELY THAT VALDEZ, WHO IS ONE OF GOE'S SENIOR LOS/FISHERIES EXPERTS, WILL BE PREPARED TO ARGUE WITHIN GOE FOR EARLY INITIATION OF FISHERIES TALKS ALONG LINES WE HAVE PROPOSED. AMB BREWSTER AND I WILL REITERATE THESE POINTS IN CALL ON PRES RODRIGUEZ AFTER-NOON MARCH 12.
BREWSTER

NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED, WILL SERVICE UPON REQUEST.

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